

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (currently amended) ~~A electronic data search system according to Claim 1, for presenting an information browsing person with information having links to electronic data satisfying a search condition received from said information browsing person, comprising:~~

- a search center; and
- at least one authorization center,
- wherein said search center comprises:
 - a search database in which an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person is registered, being associated with a search condition of said electronic data,
 - search request receiving means for receiving a search request, which includes a search condition, from a terminal of an information browsing person, and
 - search means for searching for an address of electronic data that is registered in said search database being associated with a search condition included in a search request received by said search request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person, and for presenting the terminal of said information

browsing person with information having a link to the electronic data of the detected address,

wherein said at least one authorization center comprises:

an authorization registration means for registering an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person who satisfies predetermined authorization conditions, in an authorization database,

wherein, when a search request, which is received by said search request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person, includes not only a search condition but also a condition that authorization by a certain authorization center is given, then said search means searches for addresses of electronic data that are registered in said search database being associated with said search condition, and registered in the authorization database of said authorization center,

wherein said search means presents information having links to the electronic data at the detected addresses, to the terminal of said information browsing person,

wherein: said authorization center further comprises:

a-cancelled-authorization registration means for registering an address of electronic data deleted from said authorization database, in a cancelled-authorization database;

wherein said search center further comprises:

a-cache means that periodically accesses said authorization database of each authorization center, obtains contents of said authorization database of each authorization center, and holds the obtained contents in a storage device provided to the cache means-itself; and

wherein when a search request received by said search request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person includes not only a search condition but also a condition that authorization by a certain authorization center is given, then, said search means searches for addresses of electronic data that are registered in said search database being associated with said search condition, and, registered in said authorization center's authorization database held in said storage device by said cache means, and ~~further~~, not registered in the cancelled-authorization database of said authorization center; and then, said search means presents information having links to the electronic data at the detected addresses, to the terminal of said information browsing person.

Claim 3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A electronic data search system for presenting an information browsing person with information having links to electronic data satisfying a search condition received from said information browsing person, comprising:

- a search center; and
- at least one authorization center,
- wherein said search center comprises:
 - a search database in which an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person is registered, being associated with a search condition of said electronic data,

search request receiving means for receiving a search request, which includes a search condition, from a terminal of an information browsing person, and
search means for searching for an address of electronic data that is registered in said search database being associated with a search condition included in a search request received by said search request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person, and for presenting the terminal of said information browsing person with information having a link to the electronic data of the detected address,

wherein said at least one authorization center comprises:

an authorization registration means for registering an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person who satisfies predetermined authorization conditions, in an authorization database,

wherein, when a search request, which is received by said search request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person, includes not only a search condition but also a condition that authorization by a certain authorization center is given, then said search means searches for addresses of electronic data that are registered in said search database being associated with said search condition, and registered in the authorization database of said authorization center,

wherein said search means presents information having links to the electronic data at the detected addresses, to the terminal of said information browsing person,
~~according to Claim 1,~~

wherein: said authorization center further comprises:

a-mark issuing means for issuing an authorization mark having a link to said authorization center itself, to an information disclosing person who opens electronic data of which an address is registered in said authorization database through said authorization registration means, and for permitting display of said authorization mark on said electronic data;

a-verification request receiving means for receiving a verification request that includes an address of electronic data, from a terminal of an information browsing person; and

a-verification means for verifying that an address of electronic data, which is included in a verification request received by said verification request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person, is registered in said authorization database, and for presenting a result of verification to the terminal of said information browsing person; and

wherein in response to an information browsing person's operation of selecting an authorization mark displayed together with browsed electronic data, a terminal of said information browsing person transmits an authorization request that includes an address of said electronic data, to an authorization center linked to said authorization mark.

5. (currently amended) A electronic data search system for presenting an information browsing person with information having links to electronic data satisfying a search condition received from said information browsing person, comprising:

a search center; and

at least one authorization center,

wherein said search center comprises:

a search database in which an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person is registered, being associated with a search condition of said electronic data,

search request receiving means for receiving a search request, which includes a search condition, from a terminal of an information browsing person, and

search means for searching for an address of electronic data that is registered in said search database being associated with a search condition included in a search request received by said search request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person, and for presenting the terminal of said information browsing person with information having a link to the electronic data of the detected address,

wherein said at least one authorization center comprises:

an authorization registration means for registering an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person who satisfies predetermined authorization conditions, in an authorization database,

wherein, when a search request, which is received by said search request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person, includes not only a search condition but also a condition that authorization by a certain authorization center is given, then said search means searches for addresses of electronic data

that are registered in said search database being associated with said search condition, and registered in the authorization database of said authorization center,

wherein said search means presents information having links to the electronic data at the detected addresses, to the terminal of said information browsing person,
according to Claim 1,

wherein: said authorization center further comprises:

a-mark issuing means for issuing to an information disclosing person, who opens electronic data of which an address is registered in said authorization database by said authorization registration means, with an authorization mark embedded with an electronic watermark of signature information for said electronic data or for information relevant to said electronic data, and for permitting display of said authorization mark on said electronic data; and

wherein in response to an information browsing person's operation of selecting an authorization mark displayed together with browsed electronic data, a terminal of said information browsing person extracts signature information embedded as electronic watermark information in said authorization mark, and uses the extracted signature information to verify said electronic data.

Claims 6-9 (canceled).